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CIA GAVE WARNING ON SPUTNIK JUST BEFORE LAUNCHING

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (UP)

The Central Intelligence Agency's assistant director warned only a few hours before Russia launched its earth satellite that it might happen "at any time," it was disclosed today.

The prediction was made by the CIA's Dr. Herbert Scoville Jr. on Oct. 4 at a closed meeting of the President's committee on scientists and engineers.

It presumably was the basis of the White House statement the next day that President Eisenhower was not surprised by the launching of Sputnik.

Scoville's report said "it wouldn't surprise us" if Russia announced the launching of a satellite at any time, and "we must be prepared for it."

"There has been no publicity about the Russian earth satellite," he said. "They won't announce anything until they have it up there."

The report also said United States intelligence did not know whether Russia had fired an intercontinental ballistic missile as of Oct. 4, but it conceded that Moscow's claims might be true.

The committee released Scoville's statement today at an open meeting called to consider the need for rapidly increasing the number of American scientists and engineers.

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